



# Tapu!tea

...ina ia manino le folauga.

Friday  
December 29,  
2006

OFFICIAL AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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## Governor Togiola Tulafono broke ground on Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, for the Ta'u, Manu'a Dispensary and Doctors and Nurses Quarters.

In a brief ceremony in Ta'u, Governor Togiola joined Senate President Lolo Moliga, Manu'a District Governor Tufele Li'a, Health Director – Uto'ofili Asofa'afetai Maga, Public Works Director – Taeaotui Punafo Tilei, and Manu'a Rep. Mapu Puaopea Paopao in breaking ground in Papatea, Ta'u, where the current dispensary is situated.

The new 3200 square foot, single storey structure will house the dispensary, a morgue, a telemedia office, EMS office and quarters for doctors and nurses.

The contract was awarded a year ago to Mr. Tupuola Filipo Leuta. whom also attended the ceremony, and Union Construction of Tafuna. According to DPW Director Taeaotui, the delay of issuance of the Notice to Proceed construction stemmed from comprehensive analysis and compliance documentation required by the federal policy directive or NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act).

Governor Togiola expressed his delight in Ta'u getting a new dispensary (fale talavai) and believes its time to search for funds to construct a new health center for Manu'a similar to the one in Tafuna.

"I am very happy that after a year of waiting for the go ahead from the federal agencies and meeting those requirements, we can proceed with this very important building for Ta'u, Manu'a," said Governor Togiola. "I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Department of Interior for funding this project and for recognizing the importance of providing for the welfare and needs of the people of Manu'a with this dispensary. However, I truly believe that it is time to look for funds to build a much-needed Health Center (falema'i) for Manu'a so that all health services are made available in Manu'a and avoid traveling to Tutuila and the costly airfares. So, for now it is our prayer that this dispensary will serve Ta'u well, as government looks for funds to build you a Health Center in the future."

Governor Togiola expressed his gratitude to Health Director Uto'ofili and DPW head Taeaotui for initiating the project that will cost \$490,596 and will take seven months to build.

Also in attendance at the ground breaking ceremony were Rev. Fa'ata'ape Lavata'i - CCCAS Ta'u and traditional leaders of Ta'u.



HAVE A HAPPY, SAFE,  
PROSPEROUS AND HEALTHY  
NEW YEAR!!!



## HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

**On December 24, 1919**, Aifili Paulo Lauvao, who subsequently, in his long public career, became known as A.P. Lutali, and was a Sergeant in the First Samoan Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, a founder of Samoa High School, Speaker of the House of Representatives, President of the Senate, Delegate to the U.S. Congress, and second elected Governor of American Samoa, was born on the island of Aunu'u.

**On December 24, 1942**, the 3rd Marine Raider Battalion departed 'Upolu, after participating in "one of the 'great beer busts' of the Pacific War" aboard the Liberty Ship *Oliver Wendell Holmes*, en route to Tutuila. The ship's captain had told Major Michael S. Currin, the battalion's operations officer, "that, before his ship could sail, the remainder of the beer must be unloaded." Much of the Rainier beer was consumed in the process of unloading.

**On December 27, 1927**, Vernon Huber, who would become American Samoa's 34th naval governor (April 22, 1947-June 15, 1949) was married to Miss Ida Brown of Springfield, Illinois.

**On December 28, 1898**, in a memorandum to Secretary of the Navy John Davis Long, R.B. Bradford, Chief of the Navy's Bureau of Equipment, recommended that the United States obtain control of Tutuila and Manu'a.

**On December 28, 1929**, *Mau* leader Tupua Tamasese Lealofi III was assassinated in Apia by a New Zealand Army sniper during a peaceful *Mau* demonstration. Other demonstrators were wounded, including Mata'afa Faumuina Fiamé Mulinu'u I and Tuimaleali'ifano Siu. Tamasese issued this deathbed statement to the *Mau*: "My blood has been spilt for Samoa. I am proud to give it. Do not dream of avenging it, as it was spilt in maintaining peace. If I die, peace must be maintained at any price." (This day became known as "Black Saturday").

**On December 28, 1930**, a memorial service was conducted in Apia for the *Mau* members who were slain on "Black Saturday." It was followed by a procession, beginning in Apia and ending at the decedents' graves in Vaimoso.

**On December 29, 1929**, *Mau* leader Tupua Tamasese Lealofi III died from loss of blood, 26 hours after being shot on the previous day (*q.v.*).

**On December 31, 1898**, in accordance with the provisions of the Berlin General Act, the Chief Justice of Samoa ruled that Malietoa Tanumafili I would be "King," as the three claimants (Malietoa, Tui A'ana Tupua Tamasese Lealofi I and Mata'afa Iosefo) could not agree among themselves as to who should be "King." Once again, civil war broke out.

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**On December 31, 1921**, the last day of Calendar Year 1921, American Samoa had 18 public schools in the following villages: Afono, Alao, Amanave, Anua (the Poyer School), 'Aoa, Aoloua, Aunu'u, Faga'itua, Fagali'i, Fagasa, Ili'ili, Leone (girls' school), Ofu, Olosega, Ta'u and Vatia.

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## Governor Togiola accepts resignation of Malaetele Dr. Lui Tuitele

**(UTULEI)** - Governor Togiola Tulafono announced today that after due deliberation he has accepted the resignation of Malaetele Dr. Lui Tuitele as Director of the Department of Education.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola:

"After several meetings with Malaetele Dr. Lui Tuitele regarding the situation at the Department of Education, I received on December 11, 2006, a letter of resignation from Dr. Tuitele.

In his letter Dr. Tuitele also said that he has decided to retire as an employee of the American Samoa Government. He also believes that a change of leadership is due at the Department of Education. He expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve as director.

After due consideration of Dr. Tuitele's request, I have today accepted his resignation.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Tuitele for his many years of service to the American Samoa Government at the Department of Education and for all his efforts and contribution during his tenure as director of the department. I wish him and his family the very best for the future."

## ASG RADIO PROGRAM

With:

**Governor Togiola Tulafono**

**Saturdays @ 7a.m.**

On:

## SHARE IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES

with our ASG workforce

as well as the citizens of American Samoa.

Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information to:

**tapuitea@amsamoa.gov.as**

Or Contact:

Harry Stevens @733-1694 or Vince Iuli @ 733-1041

## Aquaculture Internship Program at ASCC Promotes Industry Development

*By ASCC Staff*

Internship opportunities provided to eligible Marine Science students at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) have helped to promote an emerging industry in the Territory. Fay Ondelacy, Francis Leiato, Jeff Speicher, Daystar Parker, and Pita Gurr all spent time throughout the past semester aiding Sea Grant Aquaculture Extension Agent John Gonzales as he provided technical support to aquaculture farms throughout Tutuila. In the process, these interns learned the value of overcoming unforeseen challenges through teamwork, gained experience in fundamental aquaculture practices and culture techniques, and witnessed the aquaculture potential in Tutuila.

As a result of their efforts, techniques for managing the breeding and growth of tilapia were implemented at two sites in Eastern Tutuila. Although weather often inhibited the interns' ability to visit local farmers, they helped expedite the construction of a giant clam hatchery in Alao. "For students interested in aquaculture, the program provides them with hands-on experiences in real-life settings," explained Gonzales. Added intern Pita Gurr, "A lot of hard work got accomplished through the dedication of the aquaculture interns." As a prerequisite, each student must successfully pass MSC 200, Introduction to Aquaculture, with a grade of B- or higher prior to applying for the internship.



ASCC Aquaculture Intern Jeff Speicher inspects a red tilapia to determine its gender while Francis Leiato records the information. Pita Gurr awaits the final decision before placing the tilapia in one of three cages at a farm in Auto. (Courtesy Photo)

Funding for this internship originated from a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) grant awarded to the Pacific Islands Educational Partnership Consortium (PIEPC). The grant is designed to help meet the goal of enhancing local conservation effectiveness by increasing the number of students who receive training and graduate in the marine and environmental sciences. The current internship program follows a highly successful NOAA Minority Serving Institutions Student Internship Aquaculture Program conducted in 2003 at ASCC by the Marine Science staff. Six Marine Science students participated in a 38-week internship involving two main projects: the establishment of tilapia farms, and development of the giant clam industry for the marine aquarium trade. Students in the 2003

internship program participated in five aquaculture workshops given by consultants, and in a marketing survey to assess the local demand for tilapia. They assisted in the construction of a giant clam facility in Alao, and also conducted their own workshop on tilapia culture for students at Le'atele Elementary School in Fagasa.

The presence of an aquaculture extension agent in American Samoa has resulted from the hard work and dedication of Congressman Faleomavaega Eni Hunkin. The Congressman's desire to help promote the emerging aquaculture industry in the Territory has led to various programs meant to build capacity among the various age groups who impact aquaculture growth locally. Gonzales says he hopes that such programs will continue to provide continuous learning opportunities for both students and farmers. He also recognized the support of ASCC President Dr. Satele-Galeai, Land Grant Dean and Director Tapaau Dr. Daniel Aga, and the current Marine Science staff, in the progress made with the internship programs.

"I am thankful for this experience. It has helped me narrow my personal direction in a very broad field" said recent intern Jeff Speicher. Interested students can contact Gonzales at 699-5358 concerning participation in future internships.



## Governor Togiola declares Tuesday, January 2nd territorial holiday in honor of President Gerald R. Ford

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono today proclaimed Tuesday, January 2, 2006, as a Territorial holiday in light of President Bush's Proclamation of the same day as the National Day of Mourning in further remembrance of the passing of President Gerald R. Ford. Earlier this week, all flags in the Territory were lowered to half-staff in honor of President Ford.

"I encourage all of our residents to gather in their respective places of worship on Tuesday, to pay homage to President Ford, a man whose life was marked by an inherent commitment to service," said Governor Togiola.

"President Ford's remarkable work in healing the country during a turbulent time in American history, is a testament to his belief in temperance, goodwill and peace. This National Day of Remembrance is a fitting honor for our thirty-eighth President of the United States."

As a result of the Governor's declaration, all non-essential service employees will be excused from work on Tuesday. All essential service employees required to work on this day will be compensated according to prevailing rules for holiday work.

The newly renovated Governor's mansion on Mauga o Ali'i grand opening and open house.



## **Governor Togiola informs public of impending travel for health purposes**

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono was admitted to LBJ Medical Center in Faga’alu on Wednesday, January 3, 2007 after experiencing excruciating pain from a kidney stone.

The following is the official statement from the Office of the Governor:

On Tuesday morning, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, Governor Togiola experienced severe pain on the right side of his lower back and went to LBJ Hospital. While there, X-rays, CT scans and ultrasound tests confirmed the presence of a good size stone in the right kidney.

Dr. Saleapaga recommended that the Governor seek immediate medical attention off island. Governor Togiola requested to remain on island until after the Fono opening on Monday. However, Dr. Saleapaga insisted on immediate travel for treatment in Honolulu.

After a few hours of treatment in order to relieve pain and provide comfort, Governor Togiola went home to Maugaoali’i and returned to work on the plantation. The Governor even attended Samoa Bowl IV on Tuesday evening.

On Wednesday morning on the way to work, Governor Togiola, again, felt the same pain and returned to the hospital, where he was admitted for observation as well as for severe discomfort. Dr. Saleapaga said it was important that the Governor travel on the next available flight to avoid any damage to the kidney.

Governor Togiola today authorized the release of information on his condition at LBJ Medical Center in Faga’alu.

The Governor will travel tonight to Honolulu with his wife – Mary, and an LBJ physician to Straub Hospital. Despite his discomfort, the Governor is in high spirits, issuing the following comments:

“I wish to inform the Territory that I am following doctors’ recommendations to report to Honolulu for treatment of the kidney stone. It is not life threatening and I want everyone to know that even governors have bad days. We thank the people for their concerns and well wishes and ask everyone not to worry. Thank God it is nothing more serious. I hope to return home after treatment in a week.

At this time I wish to extend my sincere congratulations to the returning President and the new Speaker of the Fono and I look forward to working with them and all the members of the 30<sup>th</sup> Legislature.

In the meantime, Lieutenant Governor Ipulasi Aitofele Sunia will assume responsibilities and management of all government affairs. I have the utmost confidence in his experience and capabilities to manage our government in good working order.”